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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF  
*TROPIOCOLOTES* (Reptilia: Gekkonidae)  
WITH A REVISED KEY TO THE GENUS

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Through the kindness of Dr. Mahmoud Latifi of the Razi Institute, Tehran, we received recently a collection of Iranian lizards among which was a single specimen from Kirman referable to the genus Tropiocolotes. Unlike most members of that genus, which was reviewed in 1970 by Minton, Anderson, and Anderson, this specimen lacks enlarged postmental shields, thus being most similar to Tropiocolotes depressus from Pakistan. The Iranian specimen differs from T. depressus, however, in having enlarged internasal shields and thus approaches T. helenae, which has enlarged internasals too. The latter also has large postmentals, as do all other members of the genus, which differ in so many other characters as well that none may be considered closely related to the specimen at hand. We are, therefore, led to the obvious conclusion that our specimen was drawn from a hitherto unrecognized population of Tropiocolotes that occurs in central Iran. And, although we have only one specimen, we believe it to be too distinct to be an aberrant individual of an already known species. Therefore, we take pleasure in naming our new find after Dr. Latifi who so kindly sent us his material for study.



134365

FIGURE 1. Tropicolotes latifi Leviton and Anderson.  
Dorsal view of holotype.



134365

FIGURE 2. Tropicolotes latifi Leviton and Anderson  
Ventral view of holotype.

Tropiocolotes latifi Leviton and Anderson, new species.  
(Figures 1-4.)

HOLOTYPE. CAS 134365, juvenile (? female), from Kirman, Kirman Province, Iran, collected in 1965.

DIAGNOSIS. Body scales smooth, swollen, subimbricate; internasals enlarged, in contact, followed by an additional pair of enlarged shields that are twice as large as succeeding scales; no postmentals, mental rounded behind and bordered by eight granules; six supralabials; five infralabials; subdigital lamellae smooth, 14 under fourth toe; about 75 dorsal scales counted from axilla to groin; nostril surrounded by four scales (rostral, first upper labial, internasal, and a smaller nasal; an additional nasal is just excluded from the border).

COLOR PATTERN. Dorsum sandy [in preservative, 75% ethanol], each dorsal scale with a fine reticulum of black when viewed through a microscope; a middorsal dark spot between forelimbs, two laterodorsal spots just anterior to hindlimbs, and a dark crossbar above and between hindlimbs also present; eight dark crossbars on tail, narrower than interspaces, not extending across underside; granules encircling eye dark; a dark line extends from posterior margin of eye, across temporal region and above axilla, to a short distance onto side of body; no dark line on snout, which is slightly darker than upper surface of head; venter cream, the scales lacking all indications of dark pigmentation.

MEASUREMENTS. Snout-vent, 17 mm., tail, 16 mm.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from the type locality in the southern Zagros mountains bordering the great interior desert basin. Kirman lies at 1710 meters elevation.

REMARKS. Beyond the obvious fact that Tropiocolotes latifi shares the greatest number of similarities with T. helenae and belongs to the "helenae" species complex, which includes T. depressus, T. helenae, and T. persicus, we can contribute nothing new at this time to an understanding of relationships within the genus to extend those speculations advanced by Minton, Anderson, and Anderson (1970). The four species assigned to this species group occur in southwestern Asia, ranging from the western Zagros mountains to Baluchistan and as far east as Nabisar, in the Thar Desert of Pakistan.

REVISED KEY TO THE SPECIES OF TROPIOCOLOTES  
(Modified from Minton, Anderson, and Anderson, 1970)

- 1a. Dorsal scales smooth or faintly keeled, ventral scales smooth..... 2  
1b. Dorsal and ventral scales strongly keeled..... 9

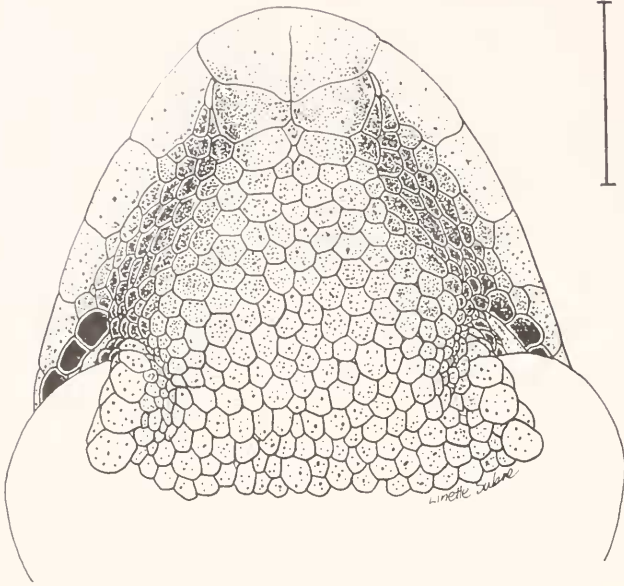


FIGURE 3. Tropiocolotes latifi Leviton and Anderson. Dorsal view of scales of snout of holotype. Vertical line represents 1 mm.

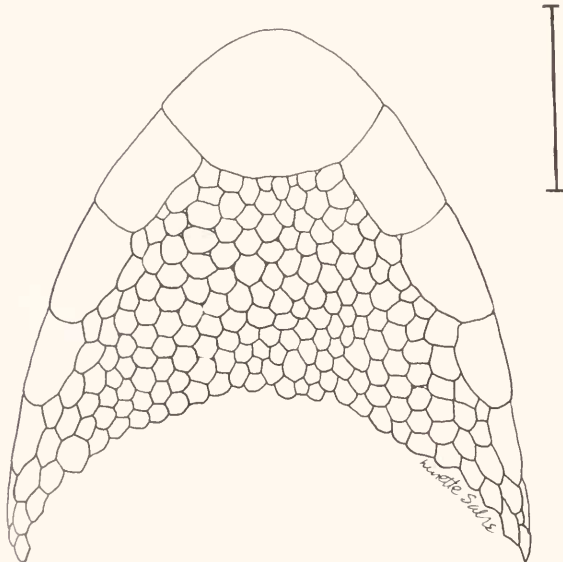


FIGURE 4. Tropiocolotes latifi Leviton and Anderson. Ventral view of scales of chin of holotype. Vertical line represents 1 mm.

- 2a. Scales along dorsal midline from axilla to groin  
50 or less; four scales border nostril; sub-  
digital lamellae distinctly tricarinate..... 3
- 2b. Scales along dorsal midline from axilla to groin  
60 or more; four or five scales border nostril;  
subdigital lamellae smooth or very indistinctly  
tricarinate..... 4
- 3a. Adpressed hindlimb reaches elbow or nearly to ax-  
illa. Range: Israel west through Egypt and  
Sudan to Algerian Sahara..... T. steudneri Peters
- 3b. Adpressed hindlimb reaches beyond shoulder. Range:  
eastern Sinai Peninsula, possibly west into Libya  
..... T. nattereri Steindachner
- 4a. Internasals not differentiated from adjacent scales;  
four scales border nostril; postmental shields  
absent, or one small pair not in contact with one  
another; males with two preanal pores. Range:  
Pakistan [Baluchistan mountains near Quetta]  
..... T. depressus Minton and Anderson
- 4b. Internasals large, followed by a second pair of en-  
larged shields; four or five scales border nos-  
tril; postmental shields present or absent..... 5
- 5a. Postmental shields absent; four scales border nos-  
tril. Range: known only from the type locality,  
Kirman, in the southern Zagros mountains of Iran  
..... T. latifi Leviton and Anderson
- 5b. Postmental shields present; five scales border  
nostril; males lack preanal pores..... 6
- 6a. A single pair of postmentals, not in contact with  
one another; dark crossbars of body indistinct  
or absent, sometimes two dorsolateral series of  
white spots present. Range: Iran [western foot-  
hills of Zagros mountains]... T. helenae (Nikolsky)
- 6b. Two pairs of postmental shields; dark crossbars  
on tail distinct..... 7
- 7a. Dark dorsal crossbars on body and tail broader  
than interspaces. Range: Iran [western foot  
hills of Zagros mountains].....  
T. persicus bakhtiari Minton, Anderson, and Anderson
- 7b. Dark dorsal crossbars of body and tail narrower  
than interspaces..... 8
- 8a. Dark crossbars less than half the width of inter-  
spaces; 82 scales along dorsal midline from ax-  
illa to groin. Range: Iranian-Pakistan border  
..... T. persicus persicus (Nikolsky)

- 8b. Dark crossbars as wide as or slightly narrower than interspaces; 62-76 scales along dorsal midline from axilla to groin. Range: Pakistan [coastal plain from Bela to Haleji near Tatta, upper Hab River Valley, and Nabisar in the Thar Desert east of the Indus].....  
T. persicus euphorbiacola Minton, Anderson, Anderson
- 9a. Dorsal scales strongly heterogeneous. Range: Iraq [known only from the type locality at Saladehin].....  
 .... T. heteropholis Minton, Anderson, and Anderson
- 9b. Dorsal scales homogeneous..... 10
- 10a. Postmental shields not in contact with one another; 50-52 midbody scale rows. Range: Arabia [Hadramaut].. T. scortecci Cherchi and Spano
- 10b. Postmental shields in contact with one another.... 11
- 11a. Less than 50 midbody scale rows..... 12
- 11b. Midbody scale rows 46-54 (mean = 52). Range: Mali..... T. tripolitanus apoklomax Papenfuss
- 12a. A pair of very large postmental shields in contact with one another, followed by smaller pair.. 13
- 12b. A pair of large postmental shields in contact with one another, but no distinguishable second pair..... 14
- 13a. Anterior postmental shields extending backward to form a long suture with lower labial thus excluding posterior postmentals from contact with first lower labial; midbody scale rows 42-48. Range: Egypt west through Libya and Tunisia..... T. tripolitanus tripolitanus Peters
- 13b. Anterior postmental shields usually not extending backward as far as second lower labial so that posterior postmental shields are in contact with first lower labial; midbody scale rows 35-41. Range: Somalia.....  
 ..... T. tripolitanus somalicus Parker
- 14a. Postmental shields extending backward to form a short suture with second lower labial; supra-orbital scales imbricate, smaller than inter-orbitals; midbody scale rows 44-46. Range: Algerian Sahara. T. tripolitanus algericus Loveridge
- 14b. Postmental shields failing to reach second labial; supraorbital scales imbricate, larger than interorbitals; midbody scale rows 40-41. Range: Spanish Sahara.....  
 ..... T. tripolitanus occidentalis Parker

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to Dr. Mahmoud Latifi, to whom the authors are first and foremost indebted, they also wish to express their appreciation to Miss Linette Sabre who executed the excellent line drawings of the snout and chin of the holotype of Tropiocolotes latifi.

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